

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks. Claims 4, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 18-20 remain pending, with claims 4, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 19 being independent.

Applicants rely on the information provided on page 4 of the final Office Action, indicating that claims 4, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 18-20 are allowed. Applicants also note that there appears to be a typographical error in the "Disposition of Claims" as Examiner has summarized in the Office Action Summary.

Applicants also rely on the information provided in the Office Action Summary that the drawings filed on 02 December 2003 are accepted. Please confirm all information Applicants have relied upon in the next Office Communication.

On page 3 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 8, 9 and 17 as being anticipated by US Patent 5,403,150 (McEachern et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed. By the present Amendment, claims 8, 9 and 17 are canceled without prejudice to place the application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

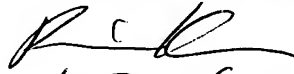
Because the Amendment After Final reduces the number of issues and cancels rejected claims to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the Amendment After Final Rejection under the 37 C.F.R. 1.116 expedited procedure.

At least for these reasons, the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner feel that a teleconference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to the application, the undersigned requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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48,360

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By: _____



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